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October 1 through 8, 1959

Synopsis of State and Intelligence material reported to the President

IRAQ

Qasim had been well aware of tension in this country before the attempt on his life. He had already increased his security forces. The situation in Iraq has been quiet following the assassination attempt. All borders have been closed and heavy patrols of police and troops are guarding the major cities. Qasim appeared before a crowd gathered at the hospital where he is being treated and gave a short reassuring speech. State Department reports, however, that his voice was weak and shaky. Apparently army units have rallied to his support, as have the Communists. Crowds are reported to have chanted, "Long live Qasim; death to Nasser," although State reports that the large crowds apparently were undecided in whose favor they should demonstrate.

IRAN

The Shah has informed the Soviet Ambassador that he was ready to give the Soviets oral or written assurance that foreign missile bases will not be allowed to be established on Iranian soil. He doubts that this offer will be satisfactory to the Soviets. The Shah admits to being depressed over the situation in Iraq and suggests some bilateral discussions on the subject.

The Shah also claims to have told Soviet Ambassador Pegov that any future discussion regarding a possible agreement between the two would have been held within the framework of Iran first consulting with its partners in CENTO and the U.S.

LAOS

Communist insurgents in Laos appear to be quiescent in Sam Neua and Phong Saly, but appear to have stepped up their activities in Luang Prabang and Vientiane. The Laotian defense authorities have anticipated this change in the pattern with the UN Subcommittee present in Laos looking for evidence of North Viet-Nam involvement. There is every evidence

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E.O. 12356, SEC. 3.4(d)

Agency Case NSC F87-721

NLE Case 82-911

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BERLIN

The East German officials who run the railways have displayed the Red flag over their subway stations. The police removed them. The flags went up again today (October 8) and this time we restrained the West Berlin Senate and allied commandants drew the attention of the Soviet commandant to this situation. Accordingly, no West Berlin police action is to be taken until the result of the protest to the Soviets is ascertainable.

KHRUSHCHEV

Khrushchev's latest proposal on disarmament has been noteworthy in that it stressed conventional disarmament. Some have interpreted this ploy as a sign that Khrushchev's confidence in his atomic ability has increased. Burgess feels that it could be an effort to meet Western charges that all Soviet proposals in the past have dwelled on nuclear disarmament.

John S. Eisenhower

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